

REMARKS

This is in response to the Examiner's action mailed June 7, 2007. Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. Claims 1-38 are rejected. Based on the Office Action Summary page and the Examiner's statement on page 10 of the Office Action regarding "reconsidering" restricting the pending claims, Applicants assume that the restriction requirement has been withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 28 are amended. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-13, 16-20 and 23-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vahala et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/20044739). Regarding claim 1 and without acquiescing in the Examiner's rejection, amended claim 1 is certainly not anticipated by Vahala because Vahala does not disclose a waveguide optically coupled to a microresonator in a coupling region where the waveguide has a larger cladding index on the coupling region side than on an opposite side.

Regarding claims 2-13, 16-20 and 23-27, these claims ultimately depend from claim 1 and therefore, are patentable over Vahala for at least the same reasons.

For these reasons, claims 1-13, 16-20 and 23-27 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Vahala and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-15 and 28-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vahala. Currently amended claims 1 and 28, however, are patentable over Vahala because the cited reference does not teach or suggest a waveguide optically coupled to a microresonator in a coupling region where the waveguide has a larger cladding index on the coupling region side than on an opposite side. Regarding claims 2-13, 14-15, 16-20, 24-27, and 28-38, these claims ultimately depend from claims 1 or 28 and therefore, are patentable over Vahala for at least the same reasons.

For these reasons, claims 14-15 and 28-38, and claims 2-13, 16-20 and 24-27 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vahala and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vahala in view of Frick (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,101). As shown elsewhere in this response, claim 1 is patentable over Vahala because Vahala does not teach or suggest a waveguide optically coupled to a microresonator in a coupling region where the waveguide has a larger cladding index on the coupling region side than on an opposite side. Furthermore, Frick does not cure the deficiencies of Vahala. In particular, Frick does not teach or suggest a waveguide optically coupled to a microresonator in a coupling region where the waveguide has a larger cladding index on the coupling region side than on an opposite side. Therefore, claim 1 is non-obvious over Vahala in view of Frick. Since claims 21 and 22 ultimately depend from claim 1, these claims are non-obvious over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

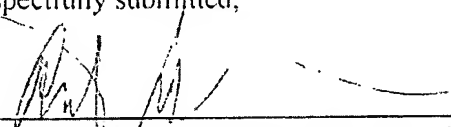
For these reasons, claims 21 and 22 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vahala in view of Frick and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, all the pending claims in the present application are patentable over the references cited and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested and an early indication of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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